

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FRB-01 CIEP-01 SCCT-01 SY-04

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P 101644Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8739

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0072

BAMAKO AND NOUAKCHOTT PASS TO AF/W'S JAMES BISHOP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, TO, PFOR

SUBJ: CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL LIBERATION DAY 1975

REF: LOME 0115, JANUARY 16, 1974 (NOTAL)

1. GENERAL GOWON OF NIGERIA AND PRESIDENT BONGO OF GABON ARE
SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE THIS WEEKEND AS PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S SPECIAL
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GUESTS FOR CELEBRATION OF TOGO'S NATIONAL LIBERATION DAY ON

JANUARY 13. DAY IS BEING HAILED PUBLICLY AS "TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY" OF TOGO'S "LIBERATION."

2. EYADEMA'S PEACE IS THEME THIS YEAR. FESTIVITIES COMMENCED YESTERDAY, JANUARY 9, WITH PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN FORMAL OPENING NEW LUXURY "HOTEL DE LA PAIX," COMPLETE WITH RELEASE OF DOZEN WHITE PIGEONS AND WHITE BALLOONS. SPEECHES AND TODAY'S PRESS DESCRIBE HOTEL AS SYMBOL OF PEACE WHICH EYADME AND ARMY HAVE BROUGHT TOGO.

3. ALSO YESTERDAY, FOUR-DAY EVENTS MARKING SECOND ANNIVERSARY FOUNDATION OF NATIONAL CONFEDERATION TOGOLESE WORKERS (CNTT) GOT UNDERWAY WITH PARADE FROM CNTT HEADQUARTERS TO PARTY (RPT) HEADQUARTERS. OPENING OF CNTT FORMAL SESSION SCHEDULED THIS MORNING WAS POSTPONED UNTIL LATE TODAY TO PERMIT CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT AND MOSLEM RELIGIOUS SERVICES TAKE PLACE. LAST YEAR EYADEMA PRESSED CLERGY TO RESCHEDULE SUNDAY SERVICE TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH JANUARY 13 CELEBRATION (REFTEL).

4. CLIMAX JANUARY 13 WILL BE NATIONAL ANIMATION FESTIVAL IN STADIUM. "MISE EN PLACE" FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND OTHERS FIXED FOR 0715 HOURS. "ANIMATEURS" FROM EACH OF COUNTRY'S TWENTY CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS, PLUS FOUR ADDITIONAL GROUPS FROM LOME VICINITY, WILL PERFORM INDIVIDUALLY. WITH TWENTY MINUTES ALLOTTED EACH GROUP AND HOUR AND QUARTER OFF FOR LUNCH, SPECTATORS WILL BE NOT ONLY "MISE," BUT GLUED, IN PLACE UNTIL 1920 HOURS. THAT LEAVES AN HOUR TO DRESS FOR STATE DINNER.

5. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT CABINET CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED THIS LIBERATION DAY. MINISTERS MOST LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED WOULD BE FONMIN HUNLEDE; FINANCE MINISTER KODJO; TEVI OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND, WEAKEST OF MINISTERS, FOFANA OF RURAL ECONOMY. SOLE EYADEMA "MESSAGE" SCHEDULED TO DATE IS JANUARY 12, TO BE PART OF CONTINUING CNTT CEREMONIES.

6. TRADITIONALLY, THIS IS TIME OF RUMORS OF IMPENDING PERSONAL DISASTER FOR EYADEMA AT HANDS OF DISGRUNTLED CITIZENS SEEKING TO VINDICATE OLYMPIO'S DEATH. THUS, UNPUBLICIZED SUICIDE OF PRESIDENTIAL GUARD LATE LAST WEEK HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF VARIED SPECULATION. VICTIM REPORTEDLY WAS CAUGHT AT CHANGING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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GUARD WITH PISTOL AND GRENADES OF NON-FRENCH MANUFACTURE.

7. COMMENT: THIS "TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY," I.E. OF OLYMPIO'S ASSASSINATION, AGAIN WILL BE BOYCOTTED BY SOME TOGOLESE WHO STILL RESENT EYADEMA FOR THIS DEED, AND PERHAPS EVEN BY SOME WHO ARE SATIATED WITH "ANIMATION." WE ARE INCLINED TO SEE MORE IN SUICIDE OF PRESIDENTIAL GUARD THAN GENDARMERIE COMMANDANT COMLAN WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE WHEN HE INDIRECTLY CONFIRMED SUICIDE AND

IMPLIED THIS "SAD" INCIDENT WAS RESULT OF GUARD'S INSTABILITY.
NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY HAS NO HARD EVIDENCE THAT ANY ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPT AGAINST EYADEMA AT THIS TIME WOULD BE MORE THAN
ISOLATED ACT OF PERSONAL REVENGE. WE DO FEEL THAT SIGNIFICANE
OF INVITATIONS TO GOWON AND BONGO IS TO SOME EXTENT AT LEAST THAT
THEIR PRESENCE WILL PROVIDE, AS MOBUTU'S MIGHT HAVE DONE LAST
YEAR, MEASURE OF PROTECTION FOR EYADEMA AGAINSTORGANIZED COUP
ATTEMPT OR EVEN ISOLATED ACT, THEIR PRESENCE CERTAINLY ENSURES
PERFECT EXCUSE FOR STEPPED-UP SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.
RAWLS

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